

Health & Safety

#1 NASA's Number One Priority for Decommissioning is the protection of the public, the workers & the environment.

NASA's Focus on Safety

NASA is committed to keeping workers safe throughout decommissioning.

While radiation safety is a priority, experience from other decommissioning projects has shown that other safety issues are of primary concern.

As is the case with any construction site or industrial setting, normal occupational hazards (large machinery, excessive heat, noise, chemicals, etc.) and workplace accidents such as trips, falls, and muscle strains, are the safety issues of most concern. NASA's advanced planning and attention to detail at every step help to eliminate potential workplace hazards and prevent accidents from happening.

Advanced Planning for Safety

Decommissioning is made up of many specially sequenced jobs. During a thorough Safety Review, NASA takes into consideration the steps involved in each upcoming job and accounts for every potential hazard.

Before any work begins, NASA prepares a detailed Work Execution Package. This package contains:

All of the Work Instructions to do that particular job. Example: getting item from point A to point B.

The Job Safety Analysis (JSA) - identifies potential hazards in advance and enables NASA to develop procedures to eliminate these hazards. Example: Industrial settings are often very loud. NASA provides personal noise dosimetry for hearing protection.

Radiation Work Permit (RWP) - if the JSA identifies a radiation hazard, the RWP identifies:

What the radiation risks are

What the exposure levels will be

How to minimize radiation risks using engineering controls and personal protective equipment

Ongoing Training

NASA provides ongoing worker training and annual refresher courses to reinforce its commitment to safe workplace habits. These include:

- ✓ Radiation safety
- ✓ Occupational Health and Safety Association (OSHA) Training
- ✓ Crane safety
- ✓ Electrical safety
- ✓ Confined space safety
- ✓ Dept. of Transportation Packaging, Labeling and Shipping of LLRW
- ✓ Specialized training for an upcoming job



Breathing zone sampling for task specific air contaminants is used to protect workers during work in a confined space.



Containment areas can get hot especially in the summer. Instruments like this measure the potential for heat stress on workers.



During pre-decommissioning, workers replaced ladders and installed stairways into the Reactor Facility quadrants to minimize the potential for falls.



Critical Lift Reviews are conducted to prepare cranes and their operators for safe operation.



For some jobs, the Radiation Work Permit will direct workers to wear full-face respirators in areas with airborne radioactivity.